



City Of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Department of Public Utilities

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City Steps Up Efforts To Maintain Fire Hydrants— Additional Funds Earmarked in 2007

(Columbus) The City of Columbus plans to increase funding for fire hydrant repair and replacement in 2007 to help make neighborhoods safer across the City. City Council will consider legislation Monday, February 5, to supplement the Department of Public Utilities' increased hydrant funding with a contract for the repair of an additional 300 hydrants this year.

“We fix 1,500 to 2,500 hydrants a year, and that’s important to make sure our Firefighters can get the pressure they need to fight fires and save lives and property,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “We set high goals for repairs, and will keep pushing to keep this system in great shape.”

The legislation—Ordinance No. 2244-2006—is for a \$235,400 contract with Downing Construction Company to repair the lower stem assemblies of about 300 hydrants. Lower stem damage and automobiles striking hydrants are the two most common reasons for hydrant being knocked out of service. The funding will be in addition to nearly \$1.9 million devote to hydrant repair in 2007, up from nearly \$1.4 million in 2006. The 2007 fire hydrant repair budget includes the hiring of four new employees to be assigned to fire hydrant repair, bringing to ten the staff devoted full time to hydrant repair and maintenance.

“Working fire hydrants are essential to protecting Columbus citizens. That’s why the City continues to invest in hydrant maintenance, and why hydrant repair will remain a high priority for City Council,” said Patsy A. Thomas, chair of City Council’s Utilities Committee.

Department of Public Utilities hydrant crews repaired 2,530 hydrants in 2006, up from 1,577 in 2005. As of February 5, only 85 of the City’s 24,500 fire hydrants—0.3%—were out of service. No two consecutive hydrants on Columbus streets are currently out of service. In 2006, contracts to supplement Public Utilities hydrant repair work totaled \$721,684: \$273,260 was for hydrant repair; \$448,424 went for replacement of damaged hydrants.

The Department of Public Utilities and Division of Fire in late 2006 created a special committee to enhance communication and their joint effort to identify needs for hydrant repairs and placement of additional hydrants where needed.

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